Mercy petition of Afzal

1756. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reported statement of former President of India while in office that he has sent back the Mercy Petition of Afzal to Ministry of Home Affairs for comments and he has not received any reply till he demitted his office is true;

(b) if so, the background and the reasons, if any for the inordinate delay or non response on a most important issue about which the whole Nation is interested, may be explained; and

(c) will there be a time frame to offer comments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The mercy petitions filed before the President of India by the condemned prisoner Mohd. Afzal and others on his behalf are being processed in accordance with the prescribed procedure, for submission to the President.

(c) The power under Article 72 of the Constitution does not contain any limitation as to the time, in which the power conferred might be exercised.

Flood havoc in the country

1757. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated loss of life and property due to flash floods across the country in the current monsoon season, State-wise;

(b) what immediate steps are being taken to provide relief and rehabilitation to the affected people in these States;

(c) what is the total outlay for flood relief activities in these States; and

(d) what measures are being considered to chalk out permanent protection for the people who are getting affected regularly due to the torrential rains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the State Governments and Union Territory, based on their preliminary assessment, estimated loss due to heavy rains/ floods/flash floods during South-west monsoon 2007, State-wise, are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

The execution of the rescue and relief measures in the event of natural disasters is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The distribution of relief on the ground is made by the concerned State. The Central Government

supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support.

The concerned State Governments have taken necessary rescue and relief operations in the affected areas which include evacuation of people to safer places, operation of relief camps and cattle camps and providing essential commodities *viz.* readymade food, wheat, rice, chura, Gur, salt, kerosene oil, shelter material like polythene sheets, etc. The State Governments also took necessary steps to prevent outbreak of any epidemic in the flood affected areas.

Relief assistance in the wake of natural disasters is provided through the Schemes of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is contributed by the Government of India and the concerned State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. The State Level Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the concerned State is fully empowered to operate the CRF in accordance with the extant items and norms approved by the Government of India. Additional assistance is also provided in the wake of a calamity of severe nature from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) as per the laid down procedure.

A Statement showing the allocation and release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and funds released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during the year 2007-08 is at Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) The Schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Government concerned. The role of the Central Government is of a technical, catalytic and promotional nature. The Central Government has initiated various measures for assisting the States in the management of floods, which include:–

(i) the setting up of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog in 1976 to look into the flood problem and suggest remedial measures. Based on its recommendations, flood management strategy in the country was formulated and forwarded to all the concerned States;

(ii) constitution of the Ganga Flood Control Commission in 1972 for the Ganga Basin States covering all the 23 river systems of Ganga;

(iii) constitution of the Brahmaputra Board for flood management covering the rivers Brahmaputra, Barak and their major tributaries;

(iv) formulation of the National Water Policy, 2002, which has recommended for the preparation of basin-wise Master Plans for flood management and control and for providing adequate flood cushion in the reservoir projects;

(v) constitution of a Task Force in 2004 for Flood Management and Erosion Control in Assam and its neighboring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The report of the Task Force been circulated to all the concerned States and Central Ministries.

Statement-I

State-wise details of damage due to heavy rains/flash floods/floods/landslide during the year 2007-08

(Provisional – as on 25.8.2007)

Sl. No	State/UT	No. of human lives lost	No. of cattle-heads lost	No. of houses damaged	Cropped area affected (lakh hectares)
1	Andhra Pradesh	57	47172	202420	0.56
2	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	16	–
3	Assam	42	–	12283	3.60
4	Bihar	450	522	285934	13.48
5	Chhattisgarh	10	38	12288	0.023
6	Gujarat	375	9707	41679	4.68
7	Goa	2	–	449	neg.
8	Himachal Pradesh	52	707	3025	0.016
9	Jharkhand	–	2	986	0.01
10	Karnataka	148	3451	65914	1.98
11	Kerala	239	2811	50927	0.35
12	Madhya Pradesh	69	294	17849	0.04
13	Maharashtra	115	1477	47045	–
14	Orissa	33	19501	27810	1.60
15	Punjab	7	18	540	0.28
16	Rajasthan	51	503	8232	neg.
17	Tamil Nadu	29	129	662	–
18	Tripura	8	–	3	–
19	Uttar Pradesh	216	157	1436	1.62
20	Uttarakhand	46	149	548	–
21	West Bengal	212	4033	396943	22.13
22	Punduchery	2	–	62	Neg.
	TOTAL:	2163	90671	1177051	50.369

Neg. —Negligible

Statement-II

Details of allocation and release of funds from CRF and NCCF during 2007-08

As on 10.8.2007
(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No	Name of the State	Allocation of CRF			Releases from CRF		Releases from NCCF
		Central Share	State Share	Total	1st Instalment	2nd Instalment	
					Amt.	Amt.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	284.51	94.84	379.35	77.735 (64.52)	142.255	17.80**
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.48	7.49	29.97	11.24	–	–
3.	Assam	153.36	51.12	204.48	76.68	–	–
4.	Bihar	118.31	39.44	157.74	59.155	–	–
5.	Chhattisgarh	88.76	29.59	118.35	21.19 (22.19)	–	–
6.	Goa	1.74	0.58	2.32	0.87	–	–
7.	Gujarat	203.41	67.8	271.22	48.57 (53.135)	–	–
8.	Haryana	102.85	34.28	137.13	51.425	–	–
9.	Himachal Pradesh	79.99	26.66	106.65	39.995	–	–
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	68.68	22.89	91.58	34.34	–	13.51*
11.	Jharkhand	100.15	33.38	133.53		–	–
12.	Karnataka	94.81	31.6	126.41	23.70 (23.70)	47.405	–
13.	Kerala #	70.7	23.57	94.26	35.35	35.35	50.00#
14.	Madhya Pradesh	201.97	67.32	269.29	50.495 (50.49)	–	–
15.	Maharashtra	184.31	61.44	245.75	47.695 (44.46)	–	168.92*
16.	Manipur	4.42	1.47	5.89	2.21	–	–
17.	Meghalaya	8.96	2.99	11.95	4.48	–	–
18.	Mizoram	5.23	1.74	6.97	–	–	–

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Nagaland	3.03	1.01	4.05	–	–	–
20.	Orissa	239.53	79.84	319.38	61.105 (58.66)	–	–
21.	Punjab	120.74	40.25	160.99	60.37	–	–
22.	Rajasthan	343.68	114.56	458.25	85.50 (86.34)	–	–
23.	Sikkim	13.93	4.64	18.57	–	–	–
24.	Tamil Nadu	172.88	57.63	230.51	–	–	–
25.	Tripura	10.21	3.4	13.61	5.105	–	–
26.	Uttar Pradesh	235.1	78.36	313.45	117.55	–	–
27.	Uttarakhand	73.93	24.64	98.58	–	–	–
28.	West Bengal	186.47	62.15	248.62	93.235	–	–

Note:- Figures shown in brackets (in col. 6) includes about 25% Central share of cm released in advance during 2006-07 for the year 2007-08.

Rs. 50.00 crore released 'On account' releases for flood-07.

* Released for flood–06. ** Released for flood–05.

Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension

†1758. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of persons getting 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension' is highest in the undivided Bihar and there has been an increase in this number;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the parameters for providing the said pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) While the total number of persons who have been sanctioned Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension by the Government is highest in undivided Bihar, the State comes at 7th position if the percentage of total number of persons, who have been sanctioned pension, in relation to the total population of States/UTs is taken into account. There has been virtually no increase in the total number of such persons as pension has been sanctioned in only one case during the period from January, 2005 upto July, 2007.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) The main parameters laid down under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 and instructions issued by the Government from time to time in this regard are given in the enclosed statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.